

Appl. No. 10/786,861
Amtd. Dated July 11, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 1, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 89188.0058
Customer No. 26021

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented): A method of improving the stabilization of intervertebral discs by reducing the bending hysteresis of scoliotic spines comprising the step of:

contacting at least a portion of a collagenous tissue within the discs with an effective amount of a crosslinking reagent.

2. (Previously presented): A method of improving the stabilization of intervertebral discs by increasing the bending stiffness of scoliotic spines comprising the step of:

contacting at least a portion of a collagenous tissue within the discs with an effective amount of a crosslinking reagent.

3. (Original): The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the crosslinking reagent is injected into the convex side of discs involved in the scoliotic spine.

4. (Original): The method of claims 1 or 2, further comprising performing corrective surgery to stabilize the discs.

5. (Original): The method of claims 1 or 2, further comprising wearing an external brace to stabilize the discs.

6. (Original): The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the crosslinking reagent is selected from the group consisting of genipin, proanthocyanidin, ribose, threose, and lysyl oxidase.

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7. (Original): The method of claims 1 or 2, further comprising contacting at least a portion of a collagenous tissue within the tissues adjacent to the discs with an effective amount of a crosslinking reagent.

8. (Original): The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the contact between the collagenous tissue and the crosslinking reagent is effected by placement of a time-release delivery system directly into or onto the portion of the collagenous tissue.

9. (Original): The method of claims 1 or 2, further comprising using three-dimensional reconstructions of the collagenous tissue to determine where to contact the collagenous tissue with the crosslinking reagent.

10-33. (Canceled)